

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A reinforced bag formed of heat sealable sheet material, said bag containing liquid or solid material therein and comprising ~~[having heat sealed parts formed at]~~ left and right side edge portions ~~[of said bag]~~ and a bottom portion ~~[that is closed up]~~, wherein, at the top of said bag a first heat seal ~~[sealed part that closes up a top opening to seal the contents therein]~~ is formed along an upper edge portion of said bag and a second heat seal ~~[sealed part]~~ is formed diagonally to extend from said first heat seal ~~[sealed part]~~ to one of said sides wherein said second heat sealed portion provides support for the bag when expelling the contents through an opening formed below the first seal ~~[side heat sealed parts, and wherein, said bag can be opened by [tearing] below said upper edge portion from a side opposite the side contacted by said diagonal seal across the bag towards said diagonal seal].~~

2. (Original) The bag according to claim 1 wherein said bag is of free-standing type.

3. (Previously Amended) The bag according to claim 1, wherein said bag contains a cleaning agent or a chemical.

4. (Previously Amended) The bag according to claim 1 wherein the contents of said bag are in the form of a powder or lumps.

5. (Currently Amended) A bag according to claim 1 wherein said bag contains a notch on the side of the bag opposite the side contacted by the second heat seal to facilitate ~~[said tearing]~~ splitting the sheet material to form an opening for expelling the contents of the bag.

6. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) A method of dispensing the contents from a ~~supported~~ reinforced bag according to claim 1 comprising tearing the bag below said upper edge from a side opposite a side contacted by a diagonal seal and toward said diagonal seal to form an opening in the bag and tipping the bag to expel at least a portion of its contents.

7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6 wherein at least a portion of said upper seal remains connected to said bag after tearing.

8. (New) A bag according to claim 1 wherein said sheet material is a laminate.

9. (New) A bag according to claim 8 wherein said laminate comprises two to four layers and each layer is a different material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, linear low density polyethylene, drawn nylon and aluminum foil.

10. (New) A bag according to claim 1 wherein the first top and second diagonal seals meet at a point 60 mm to 120 mm from the side of the bag opposite the side intersected by said second diagonal seal.

11. (New) A bag according to claim 1 wherein the second diagonal seal intersects a side at a point 50 mm to 120 mm from the top of the bag.

12. (New) A bag according to claim 5 wherein said notch is formed at least 10 mm from the top of the bag and at least 30 mm above the point where the diagonal seal intersects the opposite side of said bag.

13. (New) A method of expelling the contents from the reinforced bag formed according to claim 1 comprising splitting the sheet material to form an opening below the first seal for expelling the contents and tilting the bag to expel the contents.

14. (New) A method according to claim 13 wherein said opening is formed by splitting the sheet material from the side opposite the side intersected by the diagonal seal across to the diagonal seal.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14 wherein said splitting is initiated at a point on the side that is at least 30 mm above the point where the diagonal seal intersects the opposite side.

16. (New) A method of forming and filling a reinforced bag comprising forming a bag of sealable sheet material comprising left and right side edge portions and a bottom portion and inserting solid or liquid material through the opening at the top, forming a first seal at the top of said bag along an upper edge portion of said bag and a second seal diagonally to extend from said first seal to one of said sides wherein said second sealed portion provides support for the bag when expelling the contents through an opening formed below the first seal.

17. (New) A method according to claim 16 wherein the first top and second diagonal seals meet at a point 60 mm to 120 mm from the side of the bag opposite the side intersected by said second diagonal seal.

18. (New) A method according to claim 16 wherein the second diagonal seal intersects a side at a point 50 mm to 120 mm from the top of the bag.

19. (New) A method according to claim 16 wherein a notch for initiating splitting said sheet material to form said opening is formed at least 10 mm from the top of the bag and at least 30 mm above the point where the diagonal seal intersects the opposite side of said bag.

20. (New) A method according to claim 16 wherein said sheet material comprises a laminate.

21. (New) A method according to claim 20 wherein said laminate comprises two to four layers and each layer is a different material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, linear low density polyethylene, drawn nylon and aluminum foil.